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"RIGHT DOWN TO BUSINESS"

President Wilson Will Not "Rest on His Oars," But Expects to "Start Something" Right Away.

Trenton, N. J., (Special.)—President-elect Wilson announced that the extra session of congress would be convened on Tuesday, April 1. The governor declared he had arrived at this decision as a result of a letter received today from Representative Underwood.

"I have waited," said Mr. Wilson, "to learn just what the state of preparedness congress was in for business of the new session."

The governor said he had been corresponding with Mr. Underwood in this connection and had come to the conclusion that April 1 was the most feasible date. He intimated that the intervals between March 4 and April 1 might be devoted to caucuses and conferences. Two editors of a Wall Street newspaper called on the President-elect today and urged that financial questions receive his earliest consideration. On discussing his talk with them afterward, Mr. Wilson said:

"Everybody is agreed that there should be currency reform as soon as possible."

Tariff Bills Will Be Ready.

Washington, Feb. 24.—The extra session of congress which President-elect Wilson today announced would be called to meet April 1, will find a number of tariff bills ready for immediate consideration and other general policies mapped out for the new administration. The date received general approval in congress.

The letter from Democratic Leader Underwood, upon which Mr. Wilson based his decision to convene the session April 1, was sent after members of the ways and means committee had agreed that it would be possible to perfect several of the tariff bills by that time. Members of the committee today predicted that these measures would consume less than a month in passing the house and that there would be no marked division of opinion in the committee over the preparation of any of the bills.

The caucus of Democratic house members, March 5, is expected to confirm, to serve again, all hold-over Democrats now on the ways and means committee, and to fill Democratic vacancies caused by retirement of Senator-elect James and Representatives Randall, of Texas, and Brantley, of Georgia. The work thus far done by the committee will be reviewed by the new committee and the bills prepared in detail for submission to a full Democratic caucus immediately after congress is convened.

An income tax bill is being prepared by Representative Hull, of Tennessee, and probably will be one of the early measures introduced in the house.

Currency Legislation.

Whether currency legislation will be taken up remains a question upon which members of both houses are in doubt, but it is believed that President-elect Wilson and the Democratic managers of the new congress will let it be known at the outset they want the currency problem taken up as soon as it is possible to agree upon a system of currency reform. If the committees that will work on the subject can perfect the new legislation before the extra session finishes with the tariff, it is expected it will be taken up at once. Impetus was given to the senate reorganization fight today, by the fixing of the opening date for the session. Senate Democrats prominent in the reorganization movement, now are canvassing the situation with a view to calling a caucus within a short time to bring matters to a climax.

The plan now outlined, to which it is claimed pledges of support have been obtained from more than a majority templates the selection of Senator Kern, of Indiana, as permanent chairman of the caucus; the distribution of important committee places equitably among Democrats, leaving the older senators in control of the chairmanships to which seniority would entitle them; and a change of the "conference committee" methods, so that the leading members of committees shall not dominate the small conference committees that settle differences between the two houses.

WILSON IN NEW ROLE.

May Spend Some Time at Capitol Keeping in Touch With Things. Washington, (Special.)—Lively discussion was precipitated in congressional circles by a published statement crediting to President-elect Wilson that he intended to spend part of each working day in the President's room at the capitol, to keep in closer touch with legislative affairs. Such action on the part of the President would overturn a precedent which has restricted the President's visit to the capitol to the last hours of a session of Congress.

Democratic leaders discussed the reported plan of Mr. Wilson with reluctance though many seemed to favor it.

Vice-President in Cabinet.

Trenton, N. J., (Special.)—Two precedents looking toward a closer cooperation between the executive and legislative branches of the national government may be established under the administration of President Woodrow Wilson. The one would permit the Vice-President of the United States to sit for the first time in the cabinet councils of the President and the other would find the chief executive frequently at the capitol building physically in touch with members of the house and senate.

Chaple & Staton.

One "half interest" in the harness business conducted by Chaple & Staton has been purchased by Mr. U. G. Staton of this city. Mr. J. F. Staton has sold his interest in the harness business and the name of the new concern will be known as Chaple & Staton. This business was started by C. F. Chaple several years ago and has grown from a small shop to a large harness establishment. The machinery in this place is run by electric power and the patronage is growing fast.

NEW JUDICIAL DISTRICTS.

Tentative Arrangement Which Provokes Considerable Discussion and May be Changed.

(News and Observer, Feb. 24.) It is generally reported that the joint sub-committee on courts and judicial districts yesterday agreed on the arrangement of the districts and the schedule of court for the new twenty districts.

The report, it is said, will be made to the full committee Friday afternoon. While there is nothing absolutely authentic in the reports, none of the members of the sub-committee confirming it, yet the arrangements seems satisfactory to a great many interested parties.

The chief complaint heard, seems to be over the new eighteenth districts, which it is said is to be conferred of the counties of Rutherford, McDowell, Yancey, Polk, Henderson and Transylvania.

It is complained that it will guarantee a Republican solicitor after Solicitor Johnson's term expires.

Another new judge district is what is to be the seventeenth district to be composed of Mecklenburg, with thirty-two weeks court, and Gaston with seven weeks. This gives a judge to Charlotte. Gaston now having the solicitor.

Another of the new judges, according to the understanding agreement on the arrangement, will be given to Greensboro, by the change from its former arrangement of Guilford and Forsyth to the latest division of what is to be the eleventh district. This is to be the counties of Guilford, 25 weeks, Randolph 8 weeks, Stokes, 17 weeks. Solicitor Hammer lives in Randolph, and this gives the judge to Stokes or Guilford.

The Wilmington district is to be given both a judge and solicitor by the arrangement of the district to be composed of the counties of New Hanover, Fender, Brunswick and Columbus.

The second district, over which there has been much contention, is not to have either a new judge or solicitor, since it is to be composed of the counties of Pitt, Craven, Pamlico, Carteret, Jones and Onslow.

Another district that caused much trouble was Solicitor Porter Graves' district. This is left practically intact, except it is made more democratic by taking Stokes out of it. As arranged, it will be composed of Forsyth, Surry, Rockingham, Caswell, Ashe and Alleghany.

The 19th district is to be composed of Buncombe, with 32 weeks of court, and Madison with 8 weeks. This insures both judge and solicitor for Asheville.

It is understood that Rowan is to be kept tied to the district with Iredeil. By taking Solicitor Hammer out of this district, it will give a new solicitor to the group of counties.

Wake and Franklin will be a district to themselves, now having a judge and solicitor.

Another group of counties which will have no new judge or solicitor is the arrangement for the third district to be composed of the counties of Beaufort, Martin, Edgecombe and Wilcox.

Another new judge is to come from the first district, with Elizabeth City as the chief point. By taking Beaufort out of the first it gives the new district a judge.

It will thus be seen that according to the prepared arrangement, Elizabeth City or Gatesville will get a judge. Wilmington, Greensboro and Charlotte, 2 from the East and two from the West. It is not known yet certain when all new solicitorships will fall while it is practically settled when the new judges will come from.

RATIFYING THE AMENDMENT.

States Rapidly Falling in Line on Direct Election Proposition.

Washington, D. C., (Special.)—Ratification of the proposed amendment to the constitution for the direct election of senators is proceeding at such a rapid rate that it is now believed the amendment will be adopted before the legislatures now in session have adjourned. North Carolina was among the first to ratify the amendment.

Twenty-three state legislatures have already ratified the direct election amendment. Ratifications by three-fourths of the State, or thirty-six, is necessary. The amendment has been ratified by one house of twelve legislatures additional to the twenty-three.

If the legislatures which have passed the amendment through one house proceed to complete ratification this will make the number that have ratified the measure thirty-five, or within one of the total necessary to make direct election of senators a part of the constitution. Moreover, forty-two legislatures are in session this winter and spring. Out of this number, the probabilities are, in the opinion of friends of the amendment who have been keeping close watch of it, that thirty-six will endorse it.

It is expected the amendment to the constitution will be amended so that the election in 1914 to elect a senator to succeed Senator Lee S. Overman will be held under its provision. A few rumors are already coming to Washington in regard to candidates who aspire to Senator Overman's seat. Among them are former Governor Robert Glenn and E. J. Justice, of Greensboro. Mr. Glenn when in Washington a short time ago refused to commit himself on the subject. He said he had not told any one whether he would run or not. Mr. Justice, it is believed, will run against Senator Overman. Probably before the end of the sixty-third Congress Senator Overman will be chairman of either the judiciary or appropriations committee, it is sure to be chairman of the finance committee.

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